

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-24, 26-30, 39-40, and 42-50 are presently active in this case, Claim 22 amended and Claim 25 cancelled by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 22-24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,106,366 to Altenbokum et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,605,522 to Grosseau; Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Altenbokum et al. and Grosseau, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,096, 769 to Horikiri et al.; Claims 25 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and Claims 28-30 were allowed.

First, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Knight and Primary Examiner Pang for the September 9, 2008 personal interview at which time the outstanding issues in this case were discussed. No agreement was reached.

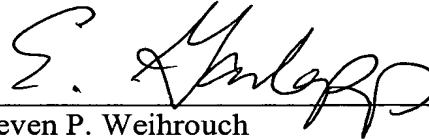
In addition, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Knight for the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent Claim 25, and for allowance of independent Claims 28 and 29. In order to expedite issuance of a patent in this case, Applicants have amended independent Claim 22 to include the allowable features of Claim 25, which is now canceled. Thus, each of independent Claims 22, 28 and 29 are in condition for allowance. As Claims 23-24, 26-27, 30, 39-40 and 42-50 depend from one of the allowable independent claims, these dependent claims are also in condition for allowance. In this regard, as withdrawn Claims 39-40 and 42-49 depend from Claim 28, these claims should be rejoined and allowed. Similarly, as Claim 30 depends from Claim 29, this claim should also be allowed.

Applicants submit that the present amendment places this case in condition for allowance and therefore should be entered after final rejection in accordance with 37 CFR §1.116. Specifically, the present amendment amends independent Claim 22 to include the subject matter of dependent Claim 25, which was identified in the final action as allowable but objected to due solely to its dependency. Therefore, the present amendment merely complies with a "requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office action" as required for entry of the after final amendment under 37 CFR §1.116(b)(1). Alternatively, Applicants submit that the after final amendment should be entered as "requiring only a cursory review by the examiner" in accordance with MPEP 714.13.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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